# MINUTES OF MEETING State Board of Education April 14-15, 2005

The April meeting of the Board of Education was held at the West Des Moines Marriott, West Des Moines in conjunction with the annual meeting of the AEA Governing Boards. Board members Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Jim Billings, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Rosie Hussey, Wayne Kobberdahl, and Mary Jean Montgomery were present. Also present were Department Director Judy Jeffrey and staff members Gail Sullivan, Carol Greta, Lee Tack, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Janice Friedel, Kathi Slaughter, Jeff Berger, Jim Reese, Lana Michelson, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl and Beverlee Adams. Also in attendance were Arlan Thorson and Terry Frisch of Iowa Learning On-line.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

It was moved by Wayne Kobberdahl and seconded by Jim Billings to approve the agenda as written.

#### COMMUNICATION

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Board Reports**

<u>Sister Jude Fitzpatrick</u> stated the lowa Braille and Sight Saving Task Force responsibilities would soon be completed with one meeting remaining. She indicated the proposed recommendations had been provided for public comment and the recommendations would be submitted to the Board of Regents for final action.

Fitzpatrick reported she had joined Judy Jeffrey in attendance at several high school visits and felt that high school graduation requirements were being exceeded by most students. She commented that increasing requirements for math and science courses would likely cause difficulty for obtaining adequate teachers with the teacher shortage in those

areas. Fitzpatrick also stated a common issue at the meetings was the student rigor during the senior year.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick said she was asked to relay a concern of local school districts that the Department of Education continues to deal with staff reductions and they have many more expectations and demands with less staff.

<u>Sally Frudden</u> indicated she had attended a high school visit at New Hampton. She also attended a Community Conversation with Pam Pfitzenmaier at Charles City. The school districts appreciated the fact that they were being heard and were pleased Department staff and State Board members were going out and giving them an opportunity to discuss their thoughts.

Frudden also discussed the Iowa Business Council news release in support of early childhood education. The Iowa Business Council was putting together two conferences addressing the early childhood education issues and she felt that it was a strong message to have business and education working together on the early childhood initiative.

She reported that Charles City had passed their instructional support levy.

Wayne Kobberdahl reported he had attended Community Conversations in Whiting and Urbandale. The conversation at the rural setting had concerns about why these meetings were being held and the urban setting discussion expressed a great deal of interest in a seamless transition to community colleges or higher education institutions. Kobberdahl said he had attended several high school visits with Director Jeffrey and appreciated the open conversations among the districts.

Mr. Kobberdahl told the Board he had visited with the superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community School District about budgeting and school finance. He also had visited with the AEA 13 administrator about the role and responsibilities of area education agencies.

Rosie Hussey stated she had attended a legislative forum in Mason City. Two local superintendents were also in attendance. Hussey reported she had also gone to a local empowerment meeting to gather more information.

Mrs. Hussey discussed the by-law changes recommended for the Post High School Coordinating Council. The by-law change was to reduce the number of members currently serving on the Council. She indicated she was seeking a position from the Board that she and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick could take to the Council for recommendation before an official vote was taken. The Board expressed a concern about the limited number of State Board/Department of Education voices represented for the responsibility and dollars provided to the Council by the Department. It was felt that voting representation needed to remain on the Council for K-12 and community colleges. It was recommended that a document be krafted stating the Board's position on the Post High School Coordinating Council by-law change on membership. It was suggested that Board members could contact appropriate Council persons with their concerns about reducing the Council membership.

Jim Billings said he had also attended high school visits and felt this effort was extremely worthwhile in providing information both for the school districts and Department of Education. He complimented Director Jeffrey with an outstanding job. Billings indicated the problems certainly varied throughout the state. He reported the high school visits provided a good concept of what is happening in the education environment in lowa.

Mary Jean Montgomery - No report.

<u>Gene Vincent</u> stated he had also attended high school visits and also visited a kindergarten and preschool program in Waukee Community School District. Vincent also expressed the appreciation of the State Board for the magnificent effort put forth by Director Jeffrey in the rigor of the high school visits across the state.

### **Director Report**

Director Judy Jeffrey reported on the following items:

- High School Visits 50 visits have been completed for a total of 195 school districts. The visits will be finished by May 25.
- Community Conversations North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL) will be putting together a white paper on information gathered from the Community Conversation meetings.
- State Board members and Department of Education staff appreciation for time given to attend high school visits and Community Conversations.

- Six million dollar teacher quality enhancement grant received 1) strengthen teaching in content areas and link more closely together the colleges of liberal arts and colleges of education in the institutions to look at strengthening the content areas; 2) improve teaching for diverse populations and provide additional assistance to teachers for improving skills; 3) Create a technology system that will do a rigorous analysis of candidate and program and performance data and 4) build stronger collaboration between what we do in teacher education at the Department, the community colleges, the lowa Regents, the private four-year institutions, the Board of Educational Examiners, bringing together Pre-K-12 school boards, administrators and community stakeholders into a large task force to thoroughly examine and
  - develop a path to reform that teacher education experience.
- Information letter to lowalive regarding lowa K-12 education.

## **Legislative Update**

Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison, presented an overview and responded to questions regarding the legislative activities affecting education.

# **AEA Governing Boards Conference**

The State Board joined the AEA Conference to hear presentations on Future Issues Facing AEAs and The Future of High Schools In Iowa.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the March 17-18, 2005 State Board of Education meeting were approved.

## Rules: Chapter 2

Chapter 2, "Agency Procedure for Rulemaking and Petitions for Rulemaking" were approved for adoption.

### **Update: Status Report on Area Education Agencies**

Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education reviewed the status on area education agencies. She reported the Department and AEA system had been engaged in efforts to improve student achievement in Iowa. Each AEA must report on the state indicators for their system and establish goals related to the needs of the LEAs. Other efforts have focused on the implementation of No Child Left Behind, assistance to schools and districts in need of assistance, professional development of teachers, and reducing student achievement gaps. Pfitzenmaier indicated that the AEAs have also been working with the Department and other educational partners to support the Focus on High Schools tasks.

## Rules: Chapter 96

Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services, discussed the amendments being proposed for Chapter 96. He indicated the amendments were intended to implement the provisions of Senate File 445, 2003 Iowa Acts, related to the certificate of need. The changes establish standards for the certificate of need required of school districts to expend funds received from the supplemental school infrastructure amount. Tack said the public hearing had been held and comments were reflected in the rule changes and it was recommended the proposed rule amendments be approved.

**Motion:** It was moved by Jim Billings and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery that the Chapter 96 rules "Local Option Sales and Services Tax for School Infrastructure" be approved.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

## **AEA Governing Boards Conference**

The State Board joined the AEA Governing Boards and gave a presentation related to the priority areas of high school reform and leadership development. A discussion followed the presentation.

## Friday, April 15

**Update: Iowa Learning Online** 

Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education introduced Arlan Thorson and Terry Frisch, Iowa Learning Online. They provided information on update plans to expand online learning opportunities in Iowa.

# **Update: Early Childhood Program Standards and Related Initiatives**

Bureau Chief, Lana Michelson and Consultant LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services provided information for this agenda item. The Early Childhood Interagency Team had developed quality standards for preschool programs. Michelson said the Department was in the process of working across agencies to inform them of such standards.

Sherman-Proehl reported that during the 2003-04 school year, the lowa Department of Education's (DE) Early Learning Work Team was given the charge to develop standards for lowa's early care and education programs linked to the Department of Education. The standards would be developed for preschool programs operated by local school districts and programs where preschoolers' IEPs were being implemented. Michelson explained that the Early Learning Work Team had developed the lowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) based on all ten of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) program standards and 45 percent of the NAEYC program criteria. In addition, the Work Team had developed a Self-Assessment, using the NAEYC program criteria that programs could use as a pre-and post-test assessment.

## **Work Session—Board Development**

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting.

The State Board had identified Board Development as a priority area at the 2004 Board Retreat. This work session was an opportunity for Board members to discuss how best to meet their needs for Board development.

Director Judy Jeffrey handed out the proposed topics for the May 12-13, 2005 State Board meeting.

Gene E. Vincent President	Judy A. Jeffrey, Director and Executive Director